

STATE OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Shari T. Wilson, Secretary

BILL NO: House Bill 1480

COMMITTEE: Environmental Matters

POSITION: Oppose

TITLE: Stormwater Management – Construction Activities – State and Local Governments PG 430-10

BILL ANALYSIS:

This bill proposes to ensure MDE does not establish criteria and procedures for stormwater management for construction activities of the State or a local government that are less stringent than the requirements for construction activities of the private sector.

MDE oversees the implementation of both local stormwater management programs and the review and approval of all State and federal construction projects. This bill would require MDE to ensure all State and local governments are treated the same as private construction projects. MDE currently ensures all parties are treated equally across the entire State through the development of stormwater management regulations, Maryland Stormwater Design Manual and Supplements, Model Ordinances, Guidelines for State and Federal Construction Projects, etc.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

MDE opposes House Bill 1480. Currently, the same stormwater management technical requirements apply to private and government construction activities, however current statute provides for State review and approval of state and federal projects under different procedures than those used by local approving authorities. Local review and approval procedures are governed by local ordinances that are approved by the Department, and may be different between jurisdictions. House Bill 1480 would require the Department to determine whether these review procedures are more or less stringent than those in place at the local level. Determining whether a review and approval procedure is more or less stringent would be difficult if not impossible to evaluate.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,

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